

May 11, 2009

WASHINGTON, D.C. -United States Senator Mary L. Landrieu, D-La., and U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon (LA-03) today announced that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded \$3.6 million to help Louisiana communities revitalize former industrial and commercial sites to turn them from problem properties to productive community use properties. Known as "brownfields," these areas are affected by the presence or potential presence of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants, which inhibits site expansion, redevelopment or reuse.

"These grants that will clean up contaminated sites are a tremendous investment in Louisiana's future and the safety of our communities," Landrieu said. "Revitalizing previously unusable property will create jobs and business opportunities in neighborhoods across our state."

The EPA awarded the largest Louisiana grant of \$2 million to the South Central Planning & Development Commission (SCPDC) based in Houma. These funds will be dedicated to providing loans and subgrants to entities supporting cleanup activities for sites contaminated with petroleum and hazardous substances.

**"Cleaning up these polluted sites will help restore their natural beauty and make our communities healthier and safer places to live,"** said Rep. Melancon. **"With this federal grant, the South Central Planning & Development Commission will be able to move forward on cleaning up contamination left behind by past industries, making the land suitable for future business development."**

"We are extremely appreciative and excited that the Environmental Protection Agency has chosen to make this investment" said Kevin Belanger, Chief Executive Officer of SCPDC. "Our successful application for a coalition RLF is a great example of statewide cooperation facilitated by our regional planning districts. The RLF will provide resources to revitalize environmentally sensitive areas in the six-parish SCP&DC district; the eight-parish Acadiana Area Regional Development District in the Lafayette area; the City of Baton Rouge and East Baton Rouge Parish in the Capital Regional Planning Commission district; and the City of Lake Charles in the Imperial-Calcasieu Regional Planning & Development Commission district."

Other Louisiana funding is as follows:

- **\$200,000** in Recovery Act fund for the City of Alexandria to conduct environmental site assessments, conduct cleanup planning and support community outreach activities in the downtown area and historical commercial corridors;
- **\$200,000 to the Biomedical Research Foundation** of Northwest Louisiana to clean up InterTech Science Park in Shreveport;

- **\$200,000 to the City of Lake Charles** to conduct environmental site assessments and support community outreach activities;
- **\$200,000 to the City of New Iberia** for clean up of Timeless Treasures site at 121 Bridge Street;
- **\$400,000 to Jefferson Parish** to identify new brownfields, conduct environmental site assessments and support community outreach activities; and
- **\$400,000 to the State of Louisiana Regional Planning Commission** to conduct environmental site assessments for hazardous substances and petroleum and to support community outreach activities.

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